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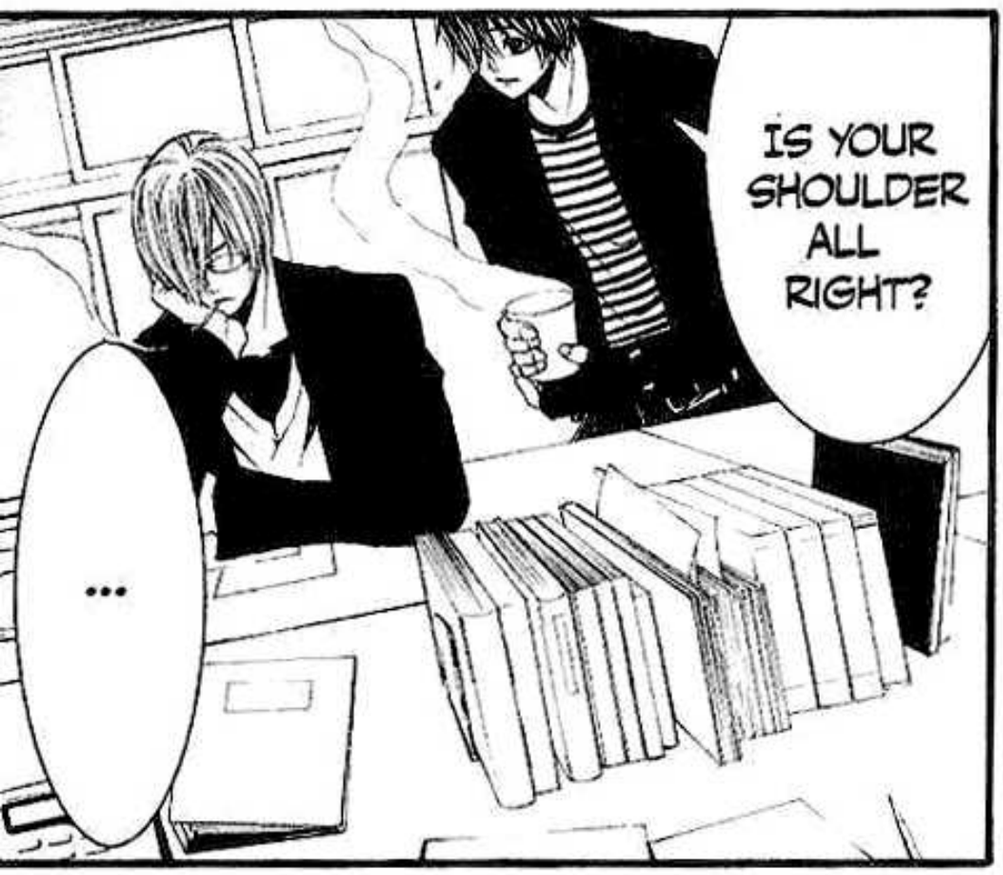

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WHAT'S HAL'S PROBLEM, ANYWAY?
YUP.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE THE RYUGEN INCIDENT IN YOKOHAMA.
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO RECREATE THAT DAY PERFECTLY!
"SWITCH" IS A WORD WITH SOME POWER, THAT'S FOR SURE!
THE KEY TO "SWITCH"... IS IN KAI'S MEMORY...
KURA-BAYASHI ...
HAL.
!
...

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SORRY TO THROW WORK AT YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT WE'VE PICKED UP A FEW DAYS OF STAKEOUT WORK FROM SECTION 2, AND I WAS THINKING OF GIVING IT TO YOU GUYS.
STAKE-OUT ...?
YOU TOO, KAI.
YES SIR!
KA TUNK
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE RESIDENCE OF A FOREIGN BROKER FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS NOW.
THIS MAN, SADATOSHI YAMAMOTO. HE OCCASIONALLY CONTACTS THE BROKER AND PURCHASES LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS.
HE'S GOT A CONNECTION WITH THE BOSS OF THE LOCAL RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS.
BOTH OF YOU, THAT IS.
!
SO I'D LIKE TO SEND YOU IN TO GATHER THE LAST FEW PIECES OF INFORMATION WE NEED TO ARRANGE THE BUST.
WE HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE EXACT TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE.

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THAT AIN'T IT.
!
YOU GUYS ARE LIFE-SAVERS!
WHAT HAVE THEIR MOVE-MENTS BEEN SO FAR?
GOOD WORK ON THE STAKE-OUT!
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
WELL...
2 February
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28
OH, AND LOOK OUT FOR THIS.
IF THE PATTERN HOLDS, THEY'LL DEFINITELY MOVE TODAY.
WE KNOW THEY GENERALLY MEET TWICE A WEEK.

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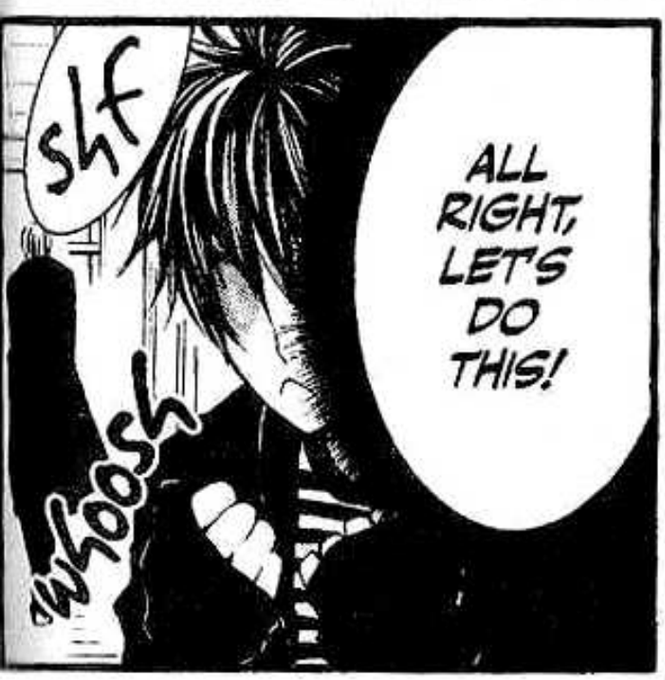
SOME OF THEIR GUYS MIGHT'VE NOTICED WE'RE ONTO THEM.
LITTLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD LIKE THIS, ANY NEW CAR STICKS OUT.
SO TRY TO AVOID USING A CAR IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

BEFORE THEY CATCH ON FOR SURE...
I THINK IT'D BE BEST TO JUST CONFIRM THE PATTERN AND FALL BACK TO REPORT IT.
OKAY?
OKAY, UNDER-STOOD!
...



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...
I'LL BE IN THE CAR. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME.
BUT THEY SAID WE SHOULDN'T USE THE -
NOTHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.
...I WOKE UP IN BED.
TWO WEEKS AGO
I REMEMBER GOING TO THAT HOUSE WITH AKAMA WITH THE RIGHT ARM OF THE RYUGEN.
...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...
KA-TUN

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HE EVEN INJURED HIS ARM PROTECTING ME.
APPARENTLY HAL WAS AT THE SCENE, TOO, BUT HE WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
Yokohama Mother, Son Kidnapped, Murdered
Five shot dead
I ONLY FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED ...
...FROM READING THE NEWSPAPER AND SEEING THE NEWS.
HE'S RIGHT.
GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'.
tak
tak
tak
...
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN TRUST A PARTNER WHO DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER BEING SAVED.

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DON'T FOLLOW ME ANY-MORE, KURA-BAYASHI.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
IF I FOLLOW IT, HELL ...
DIE?
shhf
IT'D BE BETTER TO DIE.
PLUS...
WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR ALL ALONG TURNS OUT TO BE RIGHT UNDER MY DAMN NOSE...

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SEE, YOU CAN'T JUST PARK YOUR CAR HERE LIKE THIS.
tokk
tokk
SO WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
!
WHY DON'T YOU ROLL THAT WINDOW DOWN A LITTLE MORE.
...
GET OUT.
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE *PILE* OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
YOU'RE A COP, RIGHT?

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WUBB
AAAAH!
SO WHEN THE GUYS FROM SECTION 2 SAID THAT SOMEBODY WOULD NOTICE US, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU, WEREN'T THEY, NARITA?
Ha ha ha ha
WELL, IF I CAN PIN THIS CASE DOWN, WE'LL BE STOPPING ILLEGAL WEAPONS, DRUGS, AND IMMIGRATION. THREE BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
BUT I REALLY THOUGHT THEY HADN'T NOTICED ME...
hmmm
WHAT'S THAT?
?
OH, NOTHING.
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BUSTED IN WITH YOUR GUN LIKE THAT!
Hmph.
Ha ha ha ha
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY, THOUGH...
(Your reaction, I mean)
BUT ANYWAY ...

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SO I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE ALREADY HERE.
I TRIED NEGOTIATING WITH THE LANDLADY TO RENT THIS ROOM OUT, BUT SHE JUST SAID, "YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE? AREN'T THEY ALREADY THERE?"
OH, I SEE.
I WISH WE COULDA GOTTEN IN HERE A LITTLE QUICKER.
THIS IS A GOOD SPOT YOU CAN SEE THE TARGET PERFECTLY.
HUH?
HAL...
WHERE'S YOUR NORMAL PARTNER?
STILL, AREN'T STAKEOUTS NORMALLY DONE IN TEAMS OF TWO?
chokk
?!
HAAH
...
???
GULP

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plopp
TWITCH
!!
HAAAALLL!!!
HE HATES ME!
I WAS TOTALLY GOOD FOR NOTHING IN THAT CASE SO I'VE JUST GOTTA GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!
mmph mmph
whsh
OKAY! I GET IT! SO LOWER YOUR VOICE!
Bad Kai! Bad!
I'M DOING MY BEST TO GET HIM TO TRUST ME ...
sniffle
I was gonna drink it myself...
OH CRAP, I GAVE HIM THE WRONG CAN. GUESS THE BOY CAN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR...
LET'S SEE THIS CASE ...
pat pat
waaah
THERE, THERE ...

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IT'S BEING TREATED AS A MYSTERY CASE WITH CAUSES UNKNOWN.
THE STORY'S GETTING BEAT TO DEATH IN THE MEDIA, BUT THE NCD'S SPUN IT SO WELL THERE'S NOT A HINT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
WAIT, THIS WAS THAT HORRIBLE BUST THAT THEY'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT IN THE NEWS!
YEAH ...
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU GUYS WERE THERE?!
HAL GOT HURT TRYING TO PROTECT ME! BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING!
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM HIM.
I REALLY AM GOOD FOR NOTHING!
YOU SAY YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
IT'S HAPPENED EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID. IT'D JUST GO AWAY...
... ABOUT THE INCIDENT ?
WELL THAT'S OUT OF YOUR CONTROL ...
AND NOW HAL HATES ME!
!

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KRK
DAMMIT, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO HELL!
ALL OBSERVING AGENTS, MOVE IN!
HUH?
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY. ALL RIGHT ...
...A DRUNK NCD AGENT IS HEADING TOWARD THE SCENE ALONE!
WE'RE MAKING THE BUST NOW!
MAKE SURE YOUR BODY ARMOR'S NICE AND TIGHT!

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WELL?
SO, YOU CAN JUST SPILL YOUR GUTS—HOW MUCH DID YOU MANAGE TO SNIFF OUT ABOUT MY LITTLE GROUP, HERE?
BUT THAT'S NO REASON NOT TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS.
IF YOU'RE OUT HERE ALL ON YOUR OWN, THAT MEANS THERE WON'T BE ANY BACKUP FOR A WHILE.
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THE DAMN COPS.
!
TWITCH
HMPH
HOW 'BOUT IT, MR. COP?
BASTARD!
Kl-i-k
YOU DRUG-ADDLED GANGSTER SON-OF-A-BITCH!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?

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...GOD-DAMNED GOOD FOR NOTHING!!
NO IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HERE, AND YOU JUST BUST RIGHT ON IN. DID THE IDEA OF CALLING FOR BACKUP EVEN OCCUR IN YOUR TINY FREAKING MIND?!
Shake Shake Shake
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, NO, THEN YOU CALL THE COPS?!
B-BUT HAL...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR BACKUP ...
sniff sniff
I'D JUST...
WAAAAH!
TWITCH
WHA
huh

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BOOOM
HEY, BEARD-FACE. DID YOU GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK?
JUST A LITTLE CHU-HAI...
BUT I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT A MISTAKE OR AN ACT OF GOD... Ahahahaha...
PAT PAT
snore
WHAT?
AND JUST LIKE ALWAYS, YOU'RE SHOOTING YOUR MOUTH OFF.
I WAS JUST STRUCK BY THE KID'S ENTHUSIASM AND CAME IN HERE TO BAIL HIM OUT.
MMPH I don't feel good...
AND NOW YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE CREDIT FOR OUR WORK, AS USUAL!
USING KAI TO WALK IN AND SNATCH IT OUT OF OUR HANDS, EH?
NOT LIKELY. THIS WAS A RESCUE MISSION.
SERIOUSLY, YOU THINK WE'D RUN A BUST LIKE THIS?

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HE SAW YOU BEING TAKEN AWAY AND DIDN'T STOP TO ASK. JUST DASHED RIGHT OUT.
YOU'D THINK THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING CRAZY, BUT HE EVEN GRABBED MY GUN BEFORE HE LEFT.
BUT PUTTING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO GO SAVE YOU? I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE THE KID.
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO'D THINK SO MUCH OF SOMEONE AS NASTY AS YOU ARE.
!
FRIENDS ARE HANDY.
YOU SHOULD MAKE UP WITH HIM QUICK.
WE WEREN'T ...

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...WE WEREN'T FIGHTING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GRABB
YOU'RE A HANDFUL, KID.
YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST YOUR PARTNER AND LOOK OUT FOR HIM.
FRIENDS ARE HANDY. YOU SHOULD MAKE UP WITH HIM QUICK.
...
EVERY-BODY SAYS THE SAME DAMN THING.
sighh...

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IF YOU SHOOT HAL, YOU'RE DEAD.
I'M NOT GIVING UP ON THE SWITCH.
BUT UNTIL I FIND OUT WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...
UNTIL I GET THAT ANSWER ...

APPARENTLY THEY PATCHED THINGS UP!
Ahahaha!
BUT THE MEGURO POLICE PICKED UP THE CASE, AND KAI'S TOTALLY HUNG OVER!
ALSO HAL'S TOO TIRED TO COME IN, SO I GUESS HE'S TAKING A VACATION DAY.
WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN TO US?
DOOOM
Sectio One

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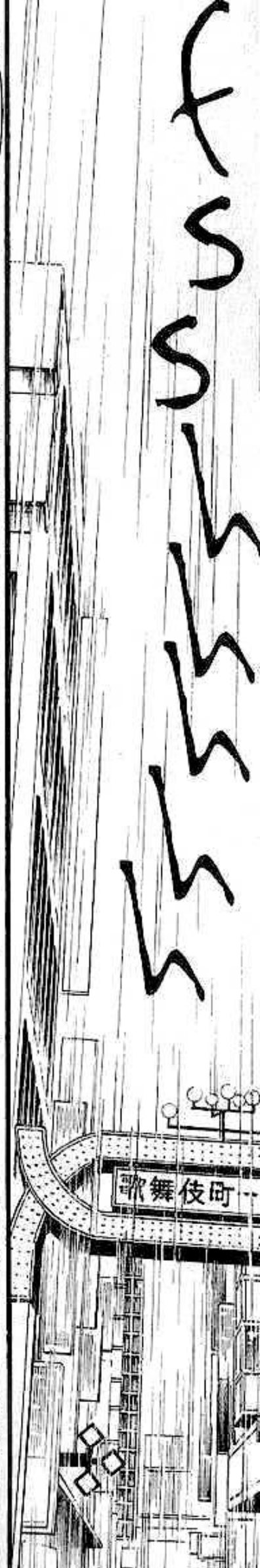

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WHA—... -PPENED? MS.—... -SHIWAGI ?
SSSHHHHH
MS. KASHI-WAGI?
...
SEITO KANZAKI FROM BLACK HOLE...
"BLACK HOLE..." MAYBE IT'S THE NAME OF A SHOP?
Ugh, my eyes!
TAKK
TAKK
OR SOME KIND OF TEAM?
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY HAD A HOMEPAGE ...
A FRIEND OF MINE TOCK ME TO A SHOW, ONCE.
TAKK
...
Outta my way! Grr!
WAIT! YOU IDIOT, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
IT'S "BLACK FALL"- "FALL," NOT "HOLE"!
TWITCH !

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THEY'RE A POPULAR INDIE BAND IN THE KANTO AREA.
BUT NONE OF THE MEMBERS ARE NAMED SEITO KANZAKI...
LOOK
BLACK FALL.
BLACK FALL
IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD FOR AN INDIE BAND THIS BIG TO HAVE A PRETTY LARGE ROAD CREW FOR A CONCERT.
hmmmm
MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THEM...
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
SURE, MUSICIANS GET INVOLVED IN DRUGS A LOT, BUT THE MORE POPULAR A BAND GETS...
...THE MORE CRAZY THE FAN PRANKS BECOME, AND THE MORE LIKELY RIVAL BANDS ARE TO SABOTAGE THEM.
!
WHA

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THE WAY SHE HUNG UP DURING THAT PHONE CALL, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT WAS NORMAL.
I THINK WE OUGHTA LOOK INTO IT.
shf
...
THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THAT INFORMANT.
Sigh
...
BUT IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING, YOU STOP YOUR INVESTI-GATION
ting
FINE, FINE. I'LL LOOK INTO THE PHONE ISSUE.
YOU JUST GO CHECK OUT THE BAND.
GOT IT!
!
C'MON.

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WE'RE JUST THANKFUL SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SHOWING UP.
SINCE IT'S THE COUNTDOWN TO OUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT AND ALL.
EVERY DAY'S JUST A HUGE SUCCESS.

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WHA
THE CONCERT WAS AMAZING!
PLEASE, LET ME HELP OUT ON YOUR STAFF!
!!
I'M SORRY, BUT WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE SHOWS LEFT ...
HUH ?
PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING, JUST LET ME HELP!
C'MON, YOU GOTTA LEAVE NOW!
PLEASE!
SURE, WHY NOT?
WHA ?
!

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NO POINT IN SENDING AWAY SOMEONE WHO WANTS IT THAT BAD.
BUT, SAEKI ...
ACTUALLY ...
WITH THE BIGGER AUDIENCES WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO GET DONE.
AND WE'RE OBVIOUSLY SHORT-HANDED.
TAKK TAKK
huh
!
SO YOU START TOMOR-ROW.
patt
TALK TO THE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS AND THEY'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

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Act.29

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SOME WEIRDO KEEPS FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
A WEIRDO?
SURE IT'S NOT SOME CRAZED FAN? I'M KINDA JEALOUS.
NO, STUPID. IT'S A MAN.
HE KEEPS BREAKING INTO MY HOUSE AND TAKING STUFF.
FWUMP
GOD, THAT'S CREEPY. A STALKER?
DID YOU GO TO THE POLICE? WHAT DID HE TAKE?
...
WHAT'D HE TAKE?
HELL IF I KNOW.
tup
BUT IT WAS SOMETHING PRECIOUS.
...THIS IS A NICE CROSS.
I LIKE IT.
THANK YOU.
I'LL TREASURE IT.

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MOST OF US WERE SENT FROM THE AGENCY THAT REPRESENTS BLACK FALL.
SO WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG, NECESSARILY, BUT THERE'S A CERTAIN BASIC LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED.
SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN WORKING FOR THIS BAND?
AS FAR AS STAFF MEMBERS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE THE BAND STARTED ...
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THOSE WORDS BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER ODD JOBS THERE ARE.
WELL, YOU'VE GOT DETERMINATION, SO DON'T WORRY...
sniff
DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW ANYTHING?
WHAT? YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?
E-heh...
UH, YEAH...
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE DOING STAGE WORK AND YOU WERE BEGGING TO DO IT ANYWAY?
I WAS JUST SO BLOWN AWAY BY THE SHOW LAST NIGHT...
I JUST HAD TO GET IN ON THIS.
SOME KINDA STREET PEOPLE?
TWIP
GLINT
FINE, FINE. ALL RIGHT... DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "ROADIE" IS?
HEY, ROADIES!
TAKE
TAKE
TAKE
???
STOP SLACKING!
OH, AND YOU...
!
thing
HELP ME OUT HERE, HE'S A TOTAL NEWBIE.
SE?
???
MIXING BOARD?
?
LINE LEVEL ?
???

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THE OLD GUY IS MR. KARIYA, FROM THE RECORD LABEL. THE GUY WITH HIM IS MIIKE, WHO'S ON GUITAR.
MIIKE'S THE DE FACTO LEADER OF THE BAND, AND ASUKA'S HIS GIRLFRIEND.
OH, OKAY...
whisper
THAT'S ASUKA
SHE'S BEEN WITH THE BAND SINCE THE BEGINNING. YOU DON'T WANT TO CROSS HER.
HUH ...?
YEAH, INDIE GROUPS HAVE THEIR FRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS HELP OUT A LOT, SO...
DOES THAT HAPPEN A LOT? BAND MEMBER'S GIRLFRIEND BEING ON STAFF, I MEAN...
ALL RIGHT, ROOKIE, I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
IT'S IMPORTANT ...?
STAFF ONLY
tup tup tup
stuff stuff
...AND HIS MAJESTY'S BACK
!!!?
stuff stuff
UH, YEAH ...
ZOOM
ND?
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
UH?
VA-VOOOM
STAFF ONLY
ARE YOU THE KID WHO FORCED HIS WAY ONTO THE STAFF AFTER YESTERDAY'S SHOW?
UH, WELL...
HEY, ASUKA...
umm
umm
I MEAN, IF YOU WERE ON YOUR KNEES, BEGGING TO BE LET ON, IT MEANS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE BAND OR THE MUSIC, RIGHT?
When
BE RIGHT THERE.

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SO THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO FIND WHICH GIRL HE'S WITH.
OH, SAEKI ...
...I'M SCARED.
Saeki
WE'LL JUST GIVE THIS A TRY...
...
ﾄﾙﾙﾙﾙ
HE WANDERS ?
HE'LL WANDER AROUND TO THE HOUSES OF VARIOUS GIRLS JUST TO AVOID GOING HOME.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. MIIKE'S ONLY GOT EYES FOR ASUKA, BUT SAEKI'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.
AND AS USUAL, HE DOESN'T PICK UP.
flip
WAIT, SO... HOW'RE WE GONNA FIND HIM ...?

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LISTEN TO THIS!!
...
GULP
I MEAN, HE MAY BE A PLAYBOY AND CHRONICALLY LATE, BUT WE GET TO HEAR HIM ON STAGE, SINGING.
!
Yoko 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Sanae 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Aki 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Kyoko 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Eri 080 - xxxx - xxxx
Yumi 070 - xxxx - xxxx
WE'LL JUST HIT UP ALL OF HIS FIVE OR SIX GIRLS. IT'S A LOT, BUT WE'LL FIND HIM EVENTUALLY.
Here!
hmph
HIS... ERVES?"
SO WE'LL CALL THE GIRLS, ASK WHERE HE IS, AND GO GET HIM BEFORE THE SHOW.
WELL, THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY HE IS. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, EH?
WE'LL GET A NIBBLE IF WE CALL ALL THE CELL PHONE NUMBERS OF HIS CURRENT "RESERVES."
fipp
?
HEY ...
...
...YEAH, OKAY
Rkk
KASHIWAGI... YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE, LIKE...A SISTER?
hmph
I MEAN, REALLY, DON'T YOU THINK?
NOT THAT I CARE AT ALL, OF COURSE.

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SHE'S EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
I SURE DO.
!
Grin
OH, OKAY.
OH, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. ANYWAY, YOU'VE GOT A SISTER ...
THAT'S TOO BAD, HAVING A SISTER SO MUCH OLDER THAN YOU.
heh
SORRY, SHE'S MARRIED, SO I CAN'T REALLY INTRODUCE YOU.
DID HE SEEM RELIEVED? AM I JUST IMAGINING THINGS?
NO, THESE GUYS WOULD KNOW ABOUT HER...

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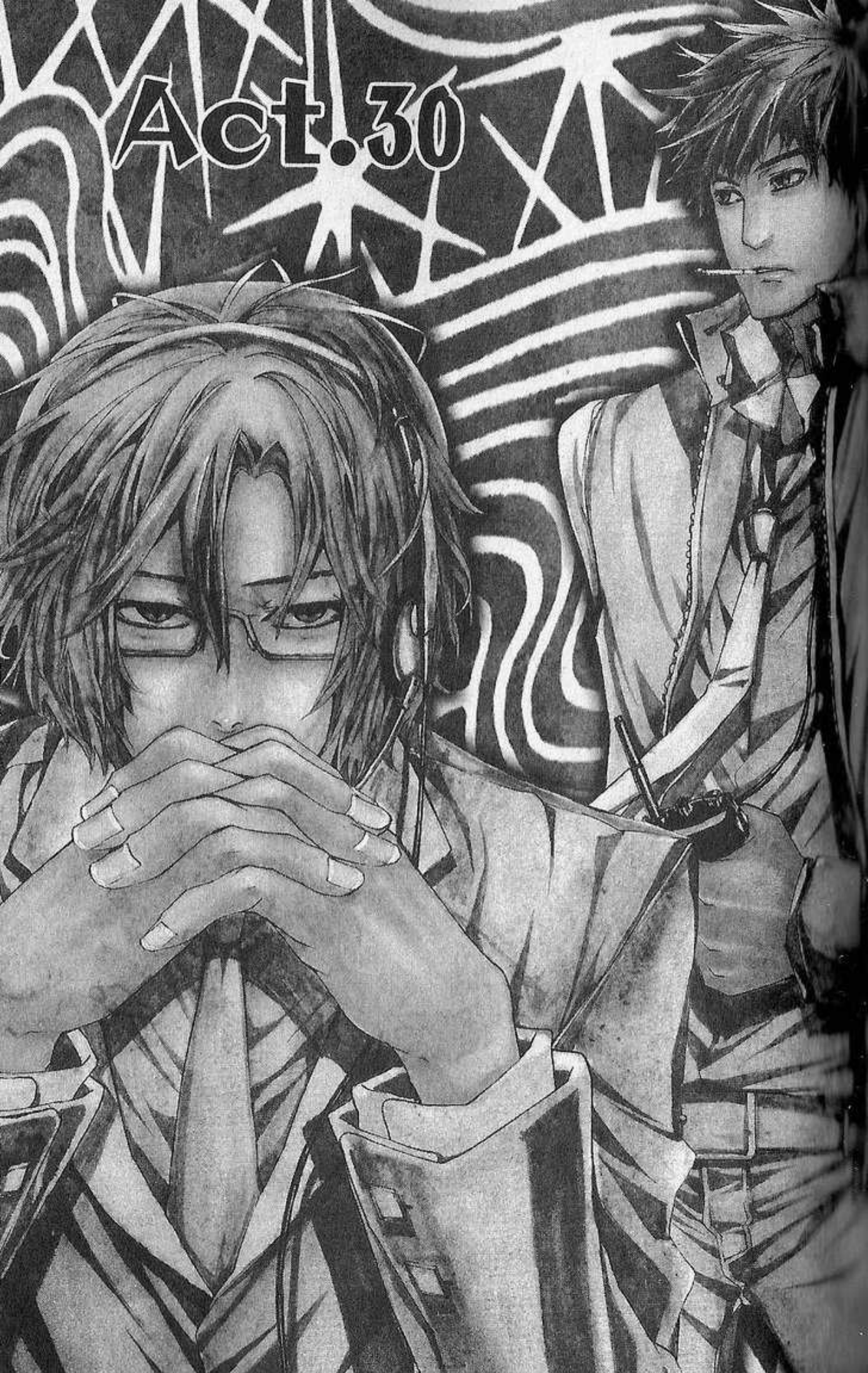

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I WISH IT HAD BEEN A CRAZED FAN-GIRL, REALLY.
THE HARASSMENT'S WORSE WHEN IT'S SOME GUY I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
YESTERDAY...
...HE FINALLY MANAGED TO SLASH ME.
!
I'M NOT GONNA TURN OVER THE GUY WHO MANAGED TO ACTUALLY INJURE ME.
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL THE POLICE?
HELL NO!
I AIN'T GONNA SETTLE FOR LEAVING HIM HALF-DEAD.
...NEXT TIME I SEE HIM...
eek!
...
IT'S TRUE, ABOUT THE STALKER.
THAT'S WHY THE BACKSTAGE IS A RESTRICTED AREA
AND YET YOU GOT IN. FOR A SECOND WE THOUGHT THE ACTUAL GUY HAD MANAGED TO GET IN.
OH, RIGHT...
Sorry about that...

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THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEMS RIGHT BEFORE A CRITICAL MAJOR-LABEL DEBUT.
SO MIIKE TALKED TO MR. KARIYA, FROM THE LABEL, AND HIRED SOME SECURITY STAFF, BASICALLY.
NOW.
ALTHOUGH IT WAS MORE A REQUEST FROM THE OTHER BAND MEMBERS.
ESPE-CIALLY MIIKE AND MORI.
THE OTHER MEMBERS ?
HE'S MANAGED TO ONLY INJURE SAEKI, PRETTY MUCH...
WHAT ?!
IT'S REALLY PUZZLING, ACTUALLY.
SO IS IT, LIKE, A CRAZED FAN?
NOBODY'S ACTUALLY SEEN THE STALKER YET.
THEY'VE EVEN HIRED EXTRA SECURITY, AND YET ONLY SAEKI HAS SEEN THE MAN...?
THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT IT'S SOMEONE ON STAFF.
...

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DO OOM
!!
Eek!
WELL, YEAH, BUT THAT'S BEEN KINDA ...
wish
I ASSUME YOU'RE LOOKING INTO THE GIRL ON YOUR END.
OF COURSE. YOU KNOW, WHEN I CAN GET TO IT, WHEN I'M NOT DOING REAL WORK.
REAL WORK ?!
hmph
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D HAVE THE INVESTIGATION DONE "IN A JIFFY"?
I THINK YOU'RE CONFUSING "ONLY" AND "ALREADY."
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS, YOU KNOW.
WELL...
DO YOU HAVE PROOF ?
STARING
STARING
WILL YOU TAKE THIS A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY?! WE'RE GONNA GET AN ARREST, YOU KNOW!
hmph
THE FOOL'S TAKING A DETOUR.
HA HA, HE'S ALWAYS DETOURING.
tap
tap
...
sigh
BEEEP
BEEEP
HOW'S MIYOSHI? WAS HE DOING OKAY?
HERE YOU GO, HERE'S THE LOCATION AND CALL HISTORY OF THE PHONE THAT KASHIWAGI GIRL USED.
Have fun!
ta-daaa
...
I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY A POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S ON SOMETHING.
SIGH
C'MON, MIYOSHI.
WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NAMED SHITO KANZAKI ?
NOT YET, BUT...
...THE BAND MEMBER I'M ONTO NOW HAS THIS DELUSION OF VICTIMIZATION. HE MAY BE HALLUCI-NATING.
HALLUCI-NATING ?

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hmph
I JUST WANT TO FINISH THIS POINTLESS CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THAT'S WHY I'M RUSHING TO GET THE FACTS, THAT'S ALL.
SURE, WHATEVER.
snerk
poke
YOU'RE SO SILLY, LYING AND SAYING YOU'RE WORKING ON THE CASE WHEN YOU'RE NOT DOING REAL WORK.
ahaha
I'M NOT LYING.
ow...
THE PHONE NUMBER THAT CALLED THE TIP IN WAS...A PUBLIC PHONE IN SHINJUKU?
YEAH, DEFINITELY. WE TRACED THE NUMBER THAT CAME IN ON THE CALLER ID TO MAKE SURE.
WHY A PUBLIC PHONE?
KA-TUNK
MAYBE SHE LOST HER CELL PHONE, OR IT GOT STOLEN... OR MAYBE SHE NEVER HAD ONE TO BEGIN WITH.
!
NOBODY USES THEM NOWADAYS, WHATEVER THE REASON. WHY CALL FROM A PUBLIC PHONE INSTEAD OF USING A CELL PHONE?
hmm... I DUNNO ...
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE CORNERED?

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...THREE MINUTES.
If you screw up you really are fired.
!!
dash
KAICH
Klink
whoah
YOUR TIME LIMIT IS...
THE ORIGINALS ARE IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR IN THE FILE CASE
I HAD TO MAKE THE CALL, IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, I SWEAR, SO PLEASE!
...
UM, ASUKA, YOU GOT A SECOND ?
ABOUT THE BOX-OFFICE TICKETS FOR TODAY ....
glare
perk
...
WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH COPIES OF THE TICKETS, SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ORIGINALS ...
OH, THAT'S IN THE GREEN ROOM.
THE GREEN ROOM, WHERE THE BAND MEMBERS ARE!!
glinnt
I'LL GET THE ORIGINALS AND MAKE THE COPIES!
Yes!
WAA
dash
WAIT, YOU!
!
HUFF HUFF
dohnt dohnt
huff
huff
glinnt
...
I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE TO GET INTO THE BAND'S PRIVATE ROOM SLIP AWAY!

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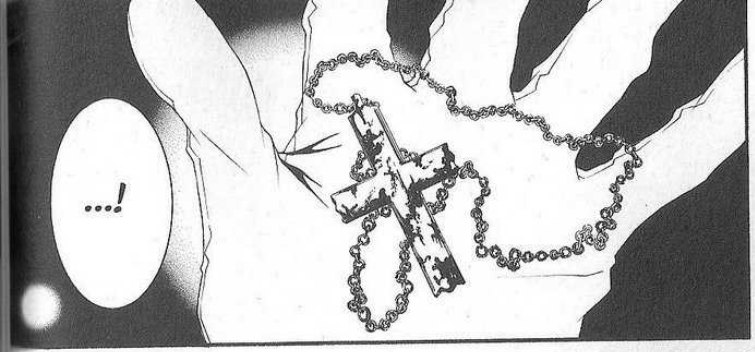

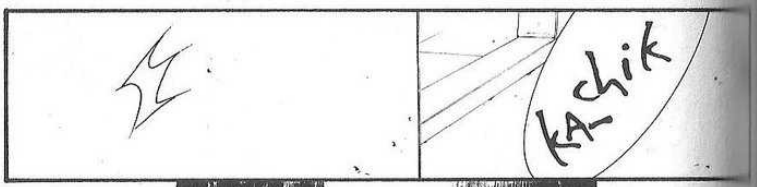

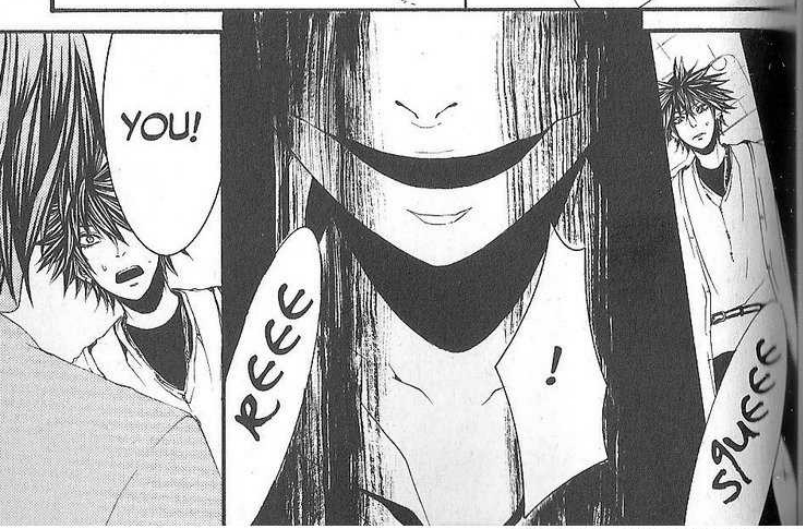

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SAEKI WILL BE OKAY.
...
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS AFTER THE SHOW.
IN THE MEANTIME, EVERYBODY BACK TO WORK.
...
KATUNK
...
BILL
IT'S GOOD YOU GOT OFF WITH A LIGHT INJURY. STILL, AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME...
YEAH, IT'S SICKENING.
RED WRITING... BLOOD? NOT A HALLUCINATION?
...
IF NOBODY CAME IN THE BACK ENTRANCE, THEN DOES THAT MEAN THE STALKER'S SOMEBODY ON STAFF ...?
...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT...
WE'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE SHOW, SO LET'S JUST CHILL, HUH?
...
...
KAIDO SAEKI DIE
DIE
DIE
DIE
DIE
!

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AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WENT OUTSIDE TO LOAD UP FOR ONCE. ACTUALLY YOU'RE ALL OUT.
JUST... GIVE IT TO ME.
...
grab
THREE DAYS TO GO!
SKREEEEE
gulp

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EEEEK
ASSH
!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED OUT THERE?
WE'RE LUCKY NO ONE WAS INJURED, BUT THROWING THE MIC STAND INTO THE AUDIENCE ...
...WELL, IT RUINED THE CONCERT, DIDN'T IT?
HE WAS THERE.
WHAT ?

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BUT THE GIRL'S NAME ...
Kashiwag
tup
KASHI-WAGI...
THERE WAS ANOTHER BIG ACCIDENT THAT DAY, SO THE ARTICLE WAS PRETTY SMALL...
GIRL USING PUBLIC PHONE DEAD TRUC COLLIS
DO YOU REMEMBE THAT TRUC ACCIDENT KABUKI-CH THE DAY BEFOR YESTERDA ?
THE PHONE WAS DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT, SO IT'S BEEN OUT OF SERVICE EVER SINCE.
IT'S NATURAL TO THINK THAT THERE'S MORE THAN A LITTLE BIT OF A CONNECTION TO BLACK FALL.
...
THERE'S MORE.
THE ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE DURING A BLACK FALL CONCERT, AND THAT PHONE IS THE ONE THAT'S CLOSEST TO THE CONCERT LOCATION.
THE ACCIDENT, THE GIRL'S NAME, AND THE TIME THE PHONE WAS DISCON-NECTED ALL SEEM CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW...

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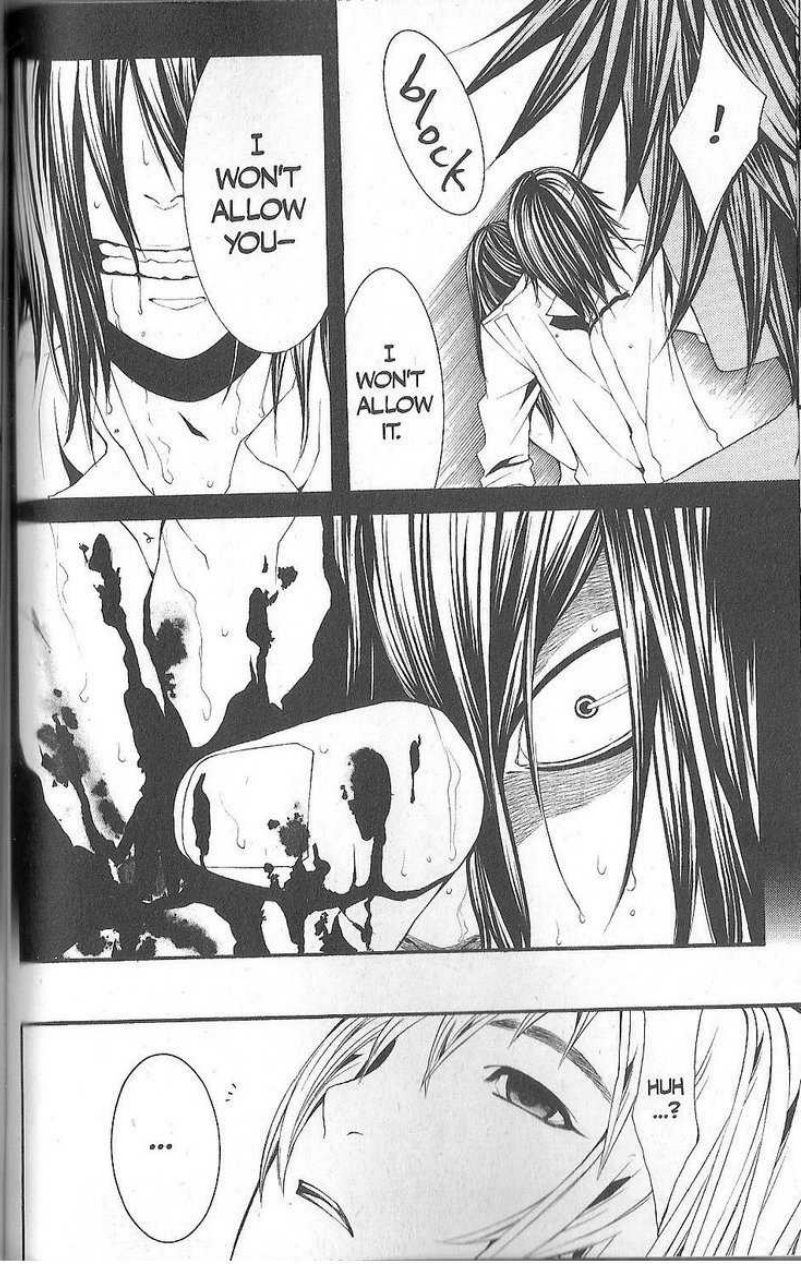

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ARE YOU SURE THEY WERE ON OUR STAFF? NOT FROM ANOTHER BAND?
sighhh
Did you find Seito Kanzaki ?!
HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO LOO FOR A GUY WHO NOT A BAND MEMBER AND NOT ON THE STAFF?

IT WAS A FRIEND OF MINE THAT INTRODUCED ME TO THE BAND, AND HE WORKED AS STAFF A WHILE AGO... I THOUGHT...
KANZAKI, EH? HMM ...I THINK I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
REALLY ?!

SEE, THERE'S NO KANZAKI ON THE STAFF DUTY LIST.
...
staff
YEAH, THE STAFF HASN'T REALLY CHANGED MUCH IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS ...
SORRY, CAN'T REMEM-BER!
E-heh!

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WHAT IS THAT, SARCASM?
hmph
OH, JUST... THAT'S A NICE CROSS, I WAS THINKING.
WELL, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING...
OH, NOTHING...!
ANYBODY COULD BE WEARING A CROSS NOWADAYS I GUESS...
klink
ANY GIRL THAT'S AFTER SAEKI KNOWS...
WELL, I KNOW.
WHAT?! NO, I—
?!
HUH?
YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY I'M JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS, RIGHT?
...THAT HE LIKES CROSSES.
!

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Kashiwagi Funeral

HEY...
SO... COULD THAT CROSS BE...?
THAT SAME QUESTION AGAIN...
I SURE DO.
DO YOU... DO YOU HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER ?
NO, JUST AN OLDER SISTER, EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN ME....
!
WHAT IS?
YOU'RE STAFF, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU STUPID OR SOME-THING?
OH, I GUESS IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE, THEN.

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JUST GIVE ME THE DRUGS.
...
C'MON, SAEKI, GIVE THE STUFF A REST LIKE YOU PROMISED ...
AND GIVE YOURSELF A REST- TOMOR- ROW'S THE LAST SHOW...
WHA
...
AND YOU'VE DEFINITELY BEEN TAKING MORE...
IT'S BEEN WEARING OFF QUICKER, HASN'T IT?
PLUS...
YOU'VE BEEN HALLUCI- NATING, HAVEN'T Y-
GRAB
YOU THINK I'M MESSED UP OR SOMETHIN ?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
EITHER WAY, WHEN THE STUFF ISN'T WORKING AS WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LOSES, RIGHT?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY SHOWS FOR A WHILE, SO YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK.
...
MAYBE... YOU'RE RIGHT...
DASSH
WHA
bee beep beep
ihggg brrr
YOU'RE LATE.
IBU...

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DID YOU FIND THE GIRL?
YEAH, AND SEITO KANZAKI, TOO.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT, AS WELL.
THE CRUCIAL POINT IS WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT THE DRUG USE.
IF WE CAN FIND IT, IT'LL BE TOMORROW BEFORE THE SHOW.
I CAN'T ORDER A BUST BASED ON YOUR GUESS.
THE TOUR ENDS TOMOR-ROW.
AFTER THAT, THE PROOF WILL BE GONE ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.
TOMOR-ROW IS OUR ONLY SHOT.

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HEY, YOU.
...IT'S THE STALKER THAT WAS FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
I GUESS YOU FINALLY FOUND ME.
DIE KAIDO SAEKI
DIE KAIDO SAEKI
IT'S... ME...?
IT CAN'T BE...!
KAIDO SAEKI CAN DIE, FOR ALL I CARE!
IF I'M NOT KAIDO SAEKI, THEN MOEMI DIDN'T DIE...
...
AAAGH!
!!
SHUT UP... SHUT UP! DON'T CRY!
THAT'S... I REMEMBER NOW, IT'S...

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KRAK
...I WON.
I BEAT DOWN THAT BASTARD INSIDE OF ME, AND I WON.
!
KAIDO SAEKI'S THE ONE EVERYBODY WANTS, NOT SEITO KANZAKI.
YEAH, FROM HERE ON OUT, IT'S THE TRUE BEGINNING OF KAIDO SAEKI. I'M KAIDO SAEKI.
IT'S OUR LAST SHOW!
IF I'M GONNA BE MYSELF, I HAVE TO BE KAIDO SAEKI.
SEITO ...

THE GUY THAT YOU SEE ON STAGE,THAT'S THE REAL ME!
YOU CAN'T BE ME. KAIDO SAEKI WOULDN'T CRY OVER SOME DEAD GROUPIE!
I LOVE YOU, SEITO...
THERE IS NO SEITO KANZAKI ANYMORE!
DASSH
...YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S GONNA DIE!
SEITO KANZAKI ...
FLICK
SHUCK
I WON'T ACCEPT IT!
A WEAKER SELF...
I'LL NEVER ACCEPT IT.

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SORRY, I COULD ONLY GET YOU A CHEAP ONE.
IT'S OKAY.
THANK YOU, SEITO. I LOVE YOU.
SEITO, EH?
YOU'RE JUST NEVER GONNA CALL ME KAIDO SAEKI, ARE YOU?
BUT YOU'RE SEITO, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY SAD, LONELY LITTLE SEITO KANZAKI.
BUT ...
...I LOVE ALL OF YOU, EVEN THE SAD PARTS.
MO...
... EMI...

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WE ARRESTED THE OTHER BAND MEMBERS FOR POSSES-SION.
HE DIDN'T DIE. WE MADE THE BUST BEFORE THE SHOW, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, AND IT WAS THE RIGHT CALL.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
SHE REALLY LOVED HIM, THOUGH, DIDN'T SHE.
SHE RISKED HER LIFE TO GET HIM BACK FROM THE DRUGS.
HEY, IBU.
...
GUESS YOU CAN'T WRITE OFF LOVE ENTIRELY, CAN YOU ?
...I GUESS NOT.

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Act.32

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HER MAIDEN'S HEART AFIRE AS ALWAYS THIS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE.
THE GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION'S BRILLIANT ANALYST, MARI KUZUI.
whish
whisk
ZOOM
YOU WANT YOUR BIG SISTER TO GET MARRIED, DON'T YOU?
W-WELL, YEAH...
Sis, your face is huge.
MARI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
Keep the noise down.
OH, LITTLE BROTHER!
glint
HER YOUNGER BROTHER, KOTA
I-IT'S FINISHED ...
THE NEXT DAY WAS DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE.

AND IT'S FOR CUSTOMERS WITH JUST SUCH DREAMS THAT THIS ITEM IS ON SALE TODAY!
WITH THIS, MARRIAGE IS A GUARANTEE. 3,500 YEN WITH TAX!
Marriage ?
For beginners: EASY CAKE!
Expensive!
So nice to be young.
I'LL TAKE IT!
WHA
ACTUALLY, THAT WAS A JOKE ...
...AND THOUGH IT'S A BIT EARLY, THIS IS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM ME.
teehee
snug
sobb
swish
I'M GONNA DO IT!
THIS TIME, I'M GONNA MARRY MY LI'L KAI!
DOOM
THE HELL WITH SOCIAL RULES!
Yay!
THIS YEAR, ONE WOMAN IS MAKING ONE LAST RUN AT ROMANCE.
HAIL SANTA !
SUCH A SWEET CHRISTMAS!
snow

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GOOD LUCK, MS. KUZUI!
FOOM
SERIOUSLY, SENDING FAKE DOCUMENTS IS REALLY GOING TOO FAR...
iihh99 brrr
I SHALL DO IT...
WUB WUB
WHAT? ARE YOU SURE? IT'S SO FAR, I FEEL BAD ...
NO, I SHALL DO IT!
...
HUH?
Ah ha ha
C'MON KAJI, EVEN I LIKE TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS ONCE IN A WHILE.
HMM... THREE HOURS WITH A SHORT-CUT ...
EVEN SO...
... ALL RIGHT.
I'M COMMENCING THE OPERATION.

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WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!
OH, SO YOU'RE DELIVERING SOME CHRISTMAS CAKE ...
nod nod
SO, WHERE'S ...
...THE CAKE? I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE IT.
JA DUM
NOOOOOO!
THAT PERVERTED BASTARD! GODDAMMIT!
stump
NO, THE STATION WORKERS ARE LOOKING FOR IT RIGHT NOW!
!!!!

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ATTENTION ...
UM... GOOD THING THEY FOUND THE CAKE!
...
nyuu.
...
...OPERATIONS ON ALL JR RAIL LINES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS. PASSENGERS REQUIRING...
M-MISS KUZUI!
SURELY SOME-HOW ...
HOW FAR IS IT TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S HOUSE?
SIX STOPS ON THE EXPRESS.
It's 23 stops on the local train!
OH, IN THAT CASE...
SIX STOPS ...

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